### GILBERT ROAD TO HIGLEY ROAD

100P 202

Construction will start this summer between Gilbert and Higley roads. Final design will be finished in April for this 4.5 mile, six lane segment. The project has been accelerated at the request and expense of the City of Mesa. The new segment is expected to open to traffic by summer 2003.

Traffic interchanges at Val Vista Drive and Greenfield and Higley roads are included in the project. The freeway passes under Gilbert Road and begins a gradual ascent to just above existing ground level near the gravelmining pit at Thomas and Lehi roads. Thomas will be elevated over the corridor. No traffic interchange is planned there. The freeway flows beneath Val Vista, is elevated over the South Canal, and Greenfield is over the freeway. Greenfield will provide access to an industrial area north

of Loop 202. Higley also crosses over the freeway.

Nearly the whole gravel pit will be filled with material excavated from the Country Club to Gilbert project. The remaining basin will be used for detention of storm water runoff. The pit will also be used as a temporary holding area for material that ultimately will be used for highway embankment. The project will include moving about 750,000 cubic yards of material from the west end of the project to the east end, across the South Canal. Small pits between Thomas and Greenfield will be filled as part of the project's earthwork.

Early completion of bridges over the South Canal is key to completing project earthwork, keeping haul trucks off local streets and expediting roadway construction. A separate project has been readied for

bidding as soon as possible to construct these bridges.

The area east of the South Canal will have some spectacular vistas of Red Mountain and is one of the more scenic segments of the Regional Freeway System. The freeway runs along a bluff that parallels the Salt River. It passes under Greenfield and Higley roads, however, because of the lay of the land, the freeway will be at or near existing ground level. Higley and Thomas roads will be the end of Loop 202 until completion between Higley and Power roads in 2005.

Thomas Road will be relocated to the north of its present alignment at Higley to serve future traffic needs and avoid more than one crossing of a major drainage area. Higley Road may be expanded in the future and improvements constructed

with this project will accommodate these plans.

Thomas Road will be widened to five lanes east of Higley for traffic needs projected by the City of Mesa. Thomas Road east of Val Vista will be realigned for the new South Canal bridges and a multipurpose crossing will be constructed to allow SRP and Sun Circle Trail users continuous access along the canal.

The only detour during construction will be at

Higley Road. Utility relocations for water, power and telephone services are scheduled to be completed prior to the start of freeway construction.



#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Joe Warren, Project Manager (602) 712-8695 Email: jwarren@dot.state.az.us

Mary Viparina, Sr. Project Manager (602) 712-7643 Email: mviparina@dot.state.az.us

Mike Zimnick, Resident Engineer Country Club Drive to Gilbert Road (480) 649-7569

Email: mzimnick@dot.state.az.us

Mark Bonan, Valley Project Information (602) 712-7176 Email: mbonan@dot.state.az.us

**CONTRACTOR** 

Mark Heisler, Project Manager Pulice Construction, Inc. Country Club Drive to Gilbert Road (480) 833-3834

WORLD WIDE WEB www.redmountainfreeway.com



#### ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF

## TRANSPORTATION

LOOP **202** 

# RED MOUNTAIN CONSTRUCTION UPDATE LOOP 202

Red Mountain Corridor
Country Club Dr. to Gilbert Rd.

Phase B: McDowell

Temporary Detour

Bridge

Red Mountain Corridor
Country Club Dr. to Gilbert Rd.

Phase B: McDowell

Temporary Detour

Bridge

Red Mountain Corridor
Country Club Dr. to Gilbert Rd.

Phase B: McDowell Rd.

Existing McDowell Rd

Dear Neighbor,

A \$6.5 million second phase of construction has started as part of ADOT's efforts to complete the Loop 202 Red Mountain Freeway to Gilbert Road. An interim opening to Gilbert Road is scheduled for December.

A realignment of McDowell Road between Lehi and Gilbert roads, a bridge to carry the new McDowell across the freeway, a modernized Gilbert/McDowell intersection and an equestrian underpass at McDowell near Lehi Road are key elements of this phase.

The opening to Gilbert Road will provide freeway access to and from the west. The second phase work on McDowell Road sets the stage for freeway connections to and from the east which will open to traffic with the Gilbert to Higley segment by summer 2003.

Completion to Gilbert Road requires a temporary bypass around bridge construction at Gilbert and at the South Canal where an underpass will also be built as an SRP crossing. A detour of McDowell Road between Lehi and Gilbert is also required, and a temporary intersection for Gilbert/McDowell will be in operation until all road work has been completed.

Traffic is expected to be placed on these temporary roadways by early spring. The detours will remain in place through the end of the year.

The second phase project is scheduled for completion at the same time work is finished on the \$58.9 million first phase which began in June, 2000.

Significant progress has been made in the 3.5 mile segment. The Country Club Drive bridge and its interchange with Loop 202 are nearing completion, while bridges to carry Center Street, Mesa and Stapley drives and Gilbert Road over the freeway are advancing. A new

structure will also carry Gilbert over the South Canal, while a ramp bridge over Loop 202 will carry Gilbert Road traffic onto the westbound lanes of the freeway.

Significant progress is also visible as excavations continue for the depressed Country Club to Gilbert segment. More than four million cubic yards of earth will be cleared for the path of the six lane freeway.

During this massive construction our highest priority is to minimize disruptions to the traveling public and to ensure a safe passage through intersections with local streets impacted by the projects. We thank you for your patience, perseverance and cooperation. Sincerely,

Mike Zimnick, P.E.

**ADOT Senior Resident Engineer** 



